Government under various centrally sponsored plan schemes, including the Project Tiger and Project Elephant Schemes, for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.

(v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

(vi) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) International coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

(viii) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country.

(ix) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(x) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas.

(xi) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(xii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

*Translation]*

**Subsidy on Export**

*77. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will ıe Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing any subsidy to the small farmers whose products are exported to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this subsidy is cornered by the middlemen instead of the farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that this subsidy reaches the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). No subsidy is provided to small farmers, whose products are exported to other countries. However, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance to exporters including farmers who are registered as exporters with APEDA.

*[English]*

**Scrapping of Articles 356 and 249**

*78. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions from Jammu and Kashmir Government and other State Governments regarding scrapping of Articles 356 and 249 of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b). During the second meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 15th October, 1996, divergent views ranging from amendment of article 356 to its abolition were expressed. No views were expressed in the said meeting about the scrapping of article 249. However, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, while speaking on article 356, said the following in regard to article 249 :

> "In 1984 our duly elected Government was dismissed by the former Governor and soon thereafter he felt no constraint in issuing ordinances one after the other. It was he who recommended to the President of India (during the President's rule) to apply article 249 of the Constitution of India. The Governor had no authority or mandate to take such a major step. He had no Council of Ministers to advise him and surely he could not have exercised any legislative authority as a Governor under President's Rule...I cited this example to show how far Governor can go in dislodging a duly elected Government and then run the administration as his personal perceptions dictate".

It was decided in the second meeting of the Inter-State Council that a Standing Committee of the Council would examine, inter alia, the issue of Emergency Provisions including article 356 in detail and submit its report within three months of its constitution. The report of the Standing Committee shall be discussed in the next meeting of the Council after which the views of the Council shall be forwarded to the Government for consideration and further necessary action. The constitution of the Standing Committee is under consideration.

**Sugar Development Council**

*79. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members and objectives of the sugar Development Council;

(b) the number of meetings held by the Council during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) the details of recommendations made by the Council during 1995-96; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The names of the members and the objectives of the Development Council are given in enclosed Statements I and II respectively.

(b) During 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 only one meeting of the Council could be held. The Development Council for Sugar Industry was reconstituted on 4.6.1993 and the meeting of the reconstituted Council was held on 23.12.1993. The term of the Council expired on 3.6.1995. It was reconstituted on 23.2.1996. A meeting of Development Council is being held on 26.11.1996.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**STATEMENT - I**

*The names of Chairman, Member-Secretary and Members of the Development Council for Sugar Industry.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Food, New Delhi. | (Chairman) |
| 2. | Shri Shankarrao D. Kale, (Member, Lok Sabha). | Member |
| 3. | Shri Abhay Pratap Singh, (Member, Lok Sabha). | Member |
| 4. | Shri Shivajirao G. Patil, (Member, Rajya Sabha) | Member |
| 5. | Joint Secretary to the Government of India, incharge of Sugar in Ministry of Food, New Delhi. | Member-Secretary |
| 6. | Chief Director, Directorate of Sugar, New Delhi. | Member |
| 7. | Director, National Sugar Institute, Kanpur. | Member |
| 8. | Director, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune. | Member |
| 9. | Director, Sugar-cane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. | Member |
| 10. | President, Indian Sugar Mills Association, Sugar House, 39, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. | Member |
| 11. | Chairman, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. 'Vaikunth' (IIIrd Floor), 82-83, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. | Member |
| 12. | Executive Director, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Bank of Baroda Building, 16, Sansad Marg, New Delhi. | Member |
| 13. | Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Secretariat of Industrial Approvals, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Industry, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi-11 | Member |
| 14. | Managing Director, National Cooperative Development Corporation, 4, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas, New Delhi. | Member |
| 15. | Joint Advisor, Industry and Minerals Division, Planning Commission, Yojna Bhavan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi. | Member |
| 16. | President, Uttar Pradesh Khandsari Sugar Manufacturers Association, B-92, Gandhi Nagar, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. | Member |
| 17. | Shri Mustaq Ahmed, Lohia Nagar, Muzaffar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. | Member |
| 18. | Shri Satyavir Singh Chaudhary, Chaudhary Travels, Akashdeep Hotel, Near Bus Stand, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. | Member |
| 19. | Shri Bijendra Singh 'Munnu' Village and Post Office Khatouni Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) | Member |
| 20. | Shri Surendra Singh, Harjoli Jat, Haridwar, Uttar Pradesh. | Member |